

## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



QSD11  
u5936

# Stewards of the Land

## Managing the Forest Environment

**An investment in stewardship  
is an investment in the environment to:**

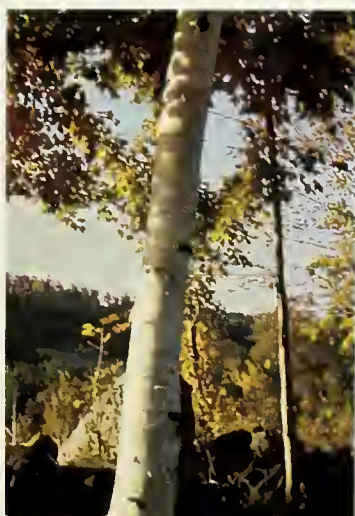
Enhance fish and  
wildlife habitat

Improve air  
quality

Preserve natural  
settings and  
biological diversity

Improve water  
quality and reduce  
soil erosion

Properly manage  
natural resources







Quality of life enjoyed by the public is dependent upon the amenities provided by forested lands.

The nation's water and air quality and fish and wildlife habitats depend upon the proper management of the nation's forested lands.

The increasing demand for timber can be met by responsible management of private forest lands.

Diverse ecological areas such as wetlands are preserved through responsible land management.

The increasing demand for timber is met by responsible management of private forest lands.

Global warming, a threat to our existence, can be reduced by forest cover.

Conservation of private forest lands requires commitment by the owners and support of the nation.

As multiple-use pressures intensify on public lands, private landowners will absorb more demands for recreation, fish and wildlife and timber harvest.

Seventy-five percent of forest lands are held by 8,000,000 private landowners.



*A managed forest* begins with a good management plan designed to meet the landowner's needs. A professional resource manager maps out those areas best suited for different uses. The result: a diverse landscape that supports many species of wildlife.

The trees are well spaced and cultural treatments are applied to keep the forest stands healthy and productive. Access is kept to the minimum needed to serve the forest landowners' needs while protecting the environment.

Reforestation efforts must keep pace with harvesting. Harvested areas are reforested by planting or by natural regeneration, depending on the site and the species desired.

Wildlife habitat improvement is coordinated with timber and other resource management activities. The results are healthy populations of deer, elk, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, songbirds and other species. Endangered species are protected.

*Stewardship starts* with forest landowners who care about their woodlands. They view their land as a source of family enjoyment, a chance to leave something special for future generations as well as a potential source of income. But they may need technical advice and incentives to make their vision for the land a reality.

The ability of the forest to meet the nation's demands hinges largely upon how well the private landowner meets the stewardship challenge.



# Actions Needed:

Coordination and cooperation to support . . .

- state and local action groups providing efficient service to private landowners.

- broader participation by multiple-resource agencies.

Resource incentives that . . .

- benefit forest landowners who use best management practices that protect the environment.

- reward landowners for practicing forest stewardship.

- support planning assistance before timber harvests.

- support tree planting programs that meet several objectives (erosion control, wildlife habitat).

- protect wetlands and endangered species and their habitats.

- encourage recreation use.

- improve water and air quality and encourage biological diversity.

Market stimulation by . . .

- creating domestic and international markets for forest resources and services.

- conducting economic and marketing analyses to find ways to make the U.S. more competitive.

Information exchange that will . . .

- accelerate the transfer of technical and program information to natural resource leaders and users.

- emphasize multiple resource management techniques, low cost reforestation, safe chemical use and management techniques that reduce insect and disease infestations and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Forest protection by . . .

- expanding rural fire protection and prevention programs to benefit people, homes and forests.

- implementing methods for overcoming insect and disease epidemics.



**Stewardship:**  
**Applying environmental and economic resource management principles to benefit current and future landowners and the public.**



# The Nation's forests can be there to provide all the benefits and values the public has come to expect—if action is taken now.

Southern Group of State Foresters  
Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters  
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region and Northeastern Area



## An investment in stewardship is an investment in the economy to:

Increase rural economic stability and diversity of rural America.

Improve land and resource values

Increase fish, wildlife, recreation opportunities and timber supply

Increase resource productivity from private lands

Reduce the need for future government programs to correct past mistakes

